



Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANTS MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT STATE AND LOCAL INPUT

Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Homeland Security, issued the following statement on the Department of Homeland Security's announcement of buffer zone protection program (BZPP) grant funding:

"I am concerned that grant funding, which is crucial to state and local efforts to protect their infrastructure, is based on a faulty critical asset list. I also worry that the Department is not effectively working with states to protect those assets which communities deem most at risk."

The BZPP program is designed to protect and secure areas surrounding critical infrastructure and asset such as chemical facilities, dams, and nuclear plants. The program uses the list of critical infrastructures contained in the National Asset Database, which Congressman Thompson and others have reviewed and found faulty.

"In reviewing the list for my home state of Mississippi, I discovered that many of our critical assets were missing and others simply were listed in the wrong town or county. I am not sure how the Department can effectively give money to where it is most needed when it doesn't even have the right assets listed," said Congressman Thompson.

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